

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 6:18 PM. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball, Susan Mooney, and Raelene Shippee-Rice, alternate, who was seated for Kristen Lamb.

Conservation Easement Project P-20: The agenda item addressed was the Public Hearing with the Select Board scheduled for 7:00 PM in Conference Room #1. The purpose of the Hearing, directed by RSA 675:7, was to invite public comment and Select Board approval in consideration of distribution of monies from the Town's Conservation Fund to assist in a conservation Easement project known at this time as P-20-ACT #4.

The appraisal by McManus & Nault Appraisal Company, Inc., Bow, NH, prepared by Kevin A. McManus, was reviewed. Previous Fund distribution approved by the Select Board following a public hearing held September 20, 2021, was for an appraisal, \$2100 from the Fund that matched the \$2100 contribution from the property owners.

The current balance of the Fund at the close of 12-31-20 was \$386,355.39. In 2021, an additional \$167,100 was added that brought the Fund total to \$552,406.05 by 12-31-21.

At the January 10, 2022, Commission meeting, the Commission voted up to \$130,000 from the Fund to assist in the loss of land value with an easement deed placed on the property and the expenses associated with the administrative costs of the deed preparation and annual monitoring by the primary easement deed holder, Southeast Land Trust (SELT). The loss in land value was determined to be \$204,000. This vote would direct \$75,000 to the loss in land value in addition to assuming the total expense of deed preparation and execution.

At this (1-24-22) meeting prior to the public hearing it was agreed to increase the donation from the Fund by \$25,000 to match that of the landowners in acknowledgement of their wish to preserve the prime ag soils and their dedication to the town for the 40+ years of their residency. The vote will be taken at the public hearing among Commission members.

At this time the meeting was paused to hold the public hearing scheduled for 7:00 PM.

At the close of the public hearing the members reconvened in Room #2 at 7:28 PM.

Adjournment: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Shippee-Rice to adjourn. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on February 14, 2022.